

Plan Recommendations

- 1. Update trail classifications.
- Develop process and criteria for unrecognized trails.
- 3. Improve existing trail signage system and wayfinding to enhance user experience.
- Create a process for prioritizing capital investment for new trails and trail improvements.
- 5. Increase user experiences through improved trail facilities at trailheads.

Trail Master Plan Recommendation #1 Update trail classification system to recognize a broader class of trails. Paved Trails. Clarify maintenance standards for paved trails. Identify regional trails by name (on signs and on maps) and determine where additional crossing signs are needed to meet federal trail sign standards. Consider designating certain paved trails as "commuter trails" that may have extended hours. Unpaved Trails. Establish consistent design and maintenance standards for

- different types of unpaved trails:

 Stone Trails. Generally 8-10' wide limestone, StaLok or other aggregate requiring regular maintenance by staff and contractors.
- Natural Surface Trails. Dirt, stone surface or mowed trails built to IMBA (International Mountain Biking Association) standards; width varies, popular with mountain bikers. Maintained by staff and volunteers.
- Primitive Trails. Dirt or stone surface, vary in width, lighter use and maintenance than natural surface trails. Volunteer maintenance support is important.
- Bridges & Boardwalks. Specify design and maintenance standards for boardwalks and bridges on trails, taking into consideration need for vehicular access and risk of

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Recommendation #2

Develop a process and criteria for recognizing current unrecognized trails.

- Develop an interdepartmental trail committee of FPDCC staff to assess requests to improve and recognize unrecognized trails.
- Develop an evaluation approach on the impact of recognizing and improving informal trails.
- Publicize the unrecognized trail process.
- Determine process for removing or shutting down informal trails that cause environmental or safety concerns.
- Define a more coordinated internal approach to identify and manage unrecognized trails to ensure all departments are prioritizing the same issues.

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Recommendation #3

Improve existing trail signage system & wayfinding to enhance user experience.

- Consider simplifying the color system when maps and signs are updated.
- Complete an inventory on existing system and replace missing signs. Create digital tags ("GPS") trail markers and intersection posts to aid in future maintenance.
- Add additional wayfinding signage to existing signage system. Pilot trail naming. Develop enhanced trail maps and determine locations for trailheads.
- Work with transportation agencies to add trail crossing markers and signs across roads to improve wayfinding, trail awareness/promotion and safety.
- Experiment with new trail maps and wayfinding approaches for certain targeted preserves with complex trail systems, such as Palos and Spring Creek.
- Develop long-term plan for wayfinding

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Recommendation #4

Create a process for prioritizing capital investment for new trails & trail improvements.

- Complete priority trails in the CMAP 2009 Greenways and Trails Plan, including Des Plaines and extension of the Centennial Trail, then create long-term trail priority list.
- Develop evaluation process, with goals and criteria, for requested trails to rate new trail and improvement requests.
- Work with CMAP to develop a coordination process with local Council of Governments, CCTHD and IDOT for trail development.
- Develop a process to ensure maintenance funds match new trail development.
- Update Trail Master Plan on yearly basis.

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Recommendation #5

Increase user experiences through improved trail facilities.

- Develop trailheads locations that provide users parking and other amenities, including:
- Provide more amenities along trails such as benches, overlooks and interpretive signage.
- Create a volunteer program to provide additional trail maintenance resources.
- Ensure long-range plan addresses safety issues.

Next Steps

Timeline

Sept 16 Public draft released for comment
 October 4 Last day for public comment
 October Staff finalizes plan
 November Submit to Board of Commissioners

Assistance Needed

- Help distribute Trail Master Plan to interested folks
 Newsletters, social media, meetings
- Review and comment on the Plan
- www.fpdcc.com/trailmasterplan

Questions & Responses?

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